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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: **Yoshinori NAKAYAMA**

Application No.: **09/379,104**

Filing Date: **August 23, 1999**

Title: **SCHEDULE RETRIEVAL METHOD FOR CONTROLLING  
SCHEDULES AND SCHEDULE SERVER APPARATUS WITH  
MULTISTAGEOUS IDLE-TIME RETRIEVAL MEANS**

Art Unit: **2764**

Examiner: **N. Nguyen**

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**March 29, 2000**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please disregard the Preliminary Amendment filed August 23, 1999, and the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed September 9, 1999, and enter thereto the following substitute Preliminary Amendment.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

**Page 1, following the title, please insert the following paragraph:**

**-- Cross-Reference to Related Application**

This application is a Continuation of Application Number 08/931,655 filed September 16, 1997, which is incorporated herein by reference. --;